

Record

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MISSISSIPPI
BAPTISTS

Mississippi high on list of pro-life states

WASHINGTON (BP and local reports) — Mississippi, with only one abortion clinic in the entire state, ranks as the fifth most pro-life state in the country, according to the 2009 rankings by Americans United for Life (AUL).

Released Jan. 22, AUL's sixth annual ratings show the following top 10 of most pro-life states: (1) Pennsylvania; (2) Louisiana; (3) South Dakota; (4) Oklahoma; (5) Mississippi; (6) Texas; (7) North Dakota; (8) Nebraska; (9) Arkansas; and (10) Indiana.

The least pro-life states, according to AUL, are: (50) California; (49) Hawaii; (48) Vermont; (47) New Jersey; (46) Connecticut; (45) Nevada; (44) Oregon; (43) New York; (42) Washington; and (41) Illinois.

Mississippi's lone abortion clinic, the Jackson Women's Health Organization, is located on State Street in the Fondren neighborhood of Jackson.

AUL, with offices in Chicago, based its rankings on such criteria as state laws regarding informed consent for women seeking abortions, parental involvement for minors considering abortions, restrictions on abortion funding, regulations for abortion clinics, funding of embryonic stem cell research, physician-assisted suicide, and conscience protections for pro-life health-care providers.

Mississippi legislators are known nationwide for their toughness on abortion laws and making sure abortion clinics measure up to health and safety standards that any other clinic is required to follow.

"The laws chip away at a woman's opportunity and right to come in and have an abortion, and I see it become more and more restrictive every year," said Betty Thompson, a former administrator at the Jackson clinic, in a 2007 interview with NBC News.

Meanwhile, a third Planned Parenthood employee has been shown on video tape seeking to cover up alleged child sexual abuse.

The latest video report by Live Action, a California-based organization led by pro-life college students, shows a nurse at a Planned Parenthood clinic in Tucson, Az., telling a supposed 15-year-old pregnant girl she should not bring her adult boyfriend to a judicial hearing to waive parental consent rights for an abortion.

"Is he not a minor?" the nurse asks the 15-year-old. When a friend accompanying the girl tells the nurse the father of the child is 27, the nurse says of a hearing, "I wouldn't take him with me, no. I mean, don't take him."

The 15-year-old actually is Jackie Stollar, a member of Live Action, and the



DOWN TO ONE — Pro-life sidewalk counselors wait at the entrance of Jackson Women's Health Organization, the lone abortion clinic operating in Mississippi. The clinic, located on State Street in the Fondren district of the capital city, provides first and second trimester surgical abortions as well as chemical abortions with RU486/Mifepristone, according to the organization's web site. (Photo by William H. Perkins Jr.)

friend accompanying her is Lila Rose, a 20-year-old University of California at Los Angeles (UCLA) student who is president of Live Action.

The latest video, released Feb. 3, is one more part of a multi-state, hidden-camera investigation by Live Action at Planned Parenthood clinics last summer. Two Planned Parenthood workers at separate clinics in Indiana lost their jobs in December after video showed them covering up alleged child sexual abuse.

Alaska Gov. Sarah Palin says a Planned Parenthood fundraising campaign in her honor may be "great theater" but does nothing to diminish her pro-life convictions.

After Republican Sen. John McCain named the governor as his vice presidential running mate in September, an e-mail effort seeking donations to Planned Parenthood "in honor of Sarah Palin" spread.

Pro-abortion advocates expressed strong opposition to Palin's candidacy because of her opposition to abortion. The fundraising effort resulted in more than one million dollars in donations to the country's leading abortion provider, a Planned Parenthood official told the Anchorage Daily News.

"I have boxes of thank you notes from people associated with Planned

Parenthood thanking me for the donations," Palin said at a Feb. 11 news conference, according to the Daily News. "It's political theater — it's great theater I guess for some."


In a written statement released later, Palin said, "Making donations to Planned Parenthood in my name might be interesting theater in these politically charged times, but it is not going to change my views or the views of many other Alaskans who believe every life is precious."

Planned Parenthood also promoted a Christmas gift card campaign last year that enabled holders of the gift cards to avail themselves of the group's "health services," and it has offered to accept donations for abortions targeted specifically at African-American babies.

Planned Parenthood's founder, Margaret Sanger, was a supporter of eugenics (selective breeding) for humans and a racist. "We do not want word to go out that we want to exterminate the Negro population," she wrote in 1939.

Planned Parenthood Federation of America's affiliates performed nearly 290,000 abortions in 2006, the latest year for which statistics are available.

The group receives hundreds of millions of dollars in funding each year in taxpayer dollars from the federal government.



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Anyone who has spent any time in a newspaper editor's chair understands the difficulty — the impossibility — of trying to cram all the news that's fit to print on to a limited number of available pages. Daily newspapers struggle with this problem, and weekly newspapers even more so. Small-format weekly newspapers, like The Baptist Record, have the worst time of all.

I often tell people that being editor of The Baptist Record is like walking through a huge apple orchard, and simply pulling the delectable fruit from branches drooping low with a bumper crop as far as the eye can see.

That's how many wonderful stories there are out there of Mississippi Baptists doing Kingdom work in our churches, state, nation, and around the globe. The same is true for the groundbreaking missions work of the Southern Baptist Convention, and Christendom in general.

Combine the limited amount of available space each week in the Record with the volume of

news we receive, and it's obvious that some items have to be left out. So, do we omit news from local church missions to report on international missions?

Do we drop photographs of RAs and GAs doing great things and instead print a comprehensive list of revivals and homecomings? What about stories that deal with the increasing persecution of our Christian brothers and sisters around the world? Don't we need to be aware of that?

One of the items that has gotten squeezed out of the Record over the past

Dear Editor...

couple of years, as we have struggled with space limitations, is letters to the editor.

Journalism professors tell their aspiring young students that the letters to the editor section is one of the most popular parts of the newspaper. People seem to really enjoy having their opinions published, and reading the opinions of other people as expressed in letters to the editor.

That holds true for readers of The Baptist Record. "We miss reading letters to the editor. Please bring them back" is a refrain the newspaper's staff hears quite frequently.

We want you to know that you have been heard. Over the next several weeks, as space is available, we'll be bringing back letters to the editor as a permanent feature in The Baptist Record.

There's a great deal that readers can do to ensure the success of the letters to the editor section. One of the main reasons the Record ceased publishing letters to the editor was due to the paucity of letters received. People apparently aren't writing letters to the editor at the same pace as in the past. That's somewhat of a mystery to us, since electronic word processing and e-mail have greatly facilitated communication (albeit more impersonally).

If readers really want more letters to the editor to be published, that means more letters have to be written!

Letters to the editor don't have to be perfect, but they do have to be relevant to the mission and purpose of The Baptist Record and Mississippi Baptists. We'll correct the grammar if necessary, but there are a small number of guidelines that have to be followed, to wit:

- Unsigned letters will not be printed. No multi-copy or form letters will be used.

- Each correspondent must include an address and telephone number for verification. In special instances, name may be withheld at writer's request and editor's discretion.

- Please include name of the cooperating Mississippi Baptist church where correspondent is a member. (Mississippi Baptists' letters will receive priority when space is limited.)

- Letters must be limited to 250 words. All correspondence is subject to editing.

- Correspondents should refrain from personal attacks. The opinions expressed in letters to the editor do not necessarily reflect the views of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board.

- No more than one letter from any individual will be printed during a three-month period.

- Letters dealing solely with secular issues will not be printed.

- Letters which the correspondents do not wish to have published must be clearly marked as such.

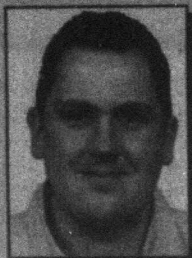
- When in the judgement of the editor a given issue has received sufficient attention, correspondence dealing with it will not longer be published and a notice will be printed to that effect.

The list is not meant to be exhaustive, as editors will always have to make decisions on the appropriateness of letters to the editor outside the published guidelines.

Write us as the Lord moves you. We pledge to read each letter carefully and prayerfully as we decide which ones to publish.

Together, let's celebrate this special way of bringing honor and glory to our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. Isn't that why we're here in the first place?

GUEST OPINION:



Forgiven

By Drew Nichter
Louisville, Ky.

As you may know, churches across the Southern Baptist Convention are urged to recognize Sanctity of Human Life on a specific Sunday each January. In 1976, I nearly became an abortion statistic.

Now, I know a great deal of people reading this know and love my mother. She serves the Lord faithfully at Crestwood Church in Oldham County, Ky., as assistant children's minister, pre-school teacher and Sunday School instructor. She simply loves children and desires to see them come to know and love Jesus Christ.

In 1976, my mother was 21 and trying to keep a struggling marriage from falling apart. During that time, she became pregnant. The decision was made, she recalled, to terminate the pregnancy.

My father, with whom I have a somewhat distant relationship, drove my mother to a clinic. My mother said she could not stop crying during the entire trip. She knew that having a baby would not save the marriage, but her desire to have a child was too strong.

In March 1977, I was born. Just a few days later, my parents were divorced.

For the better part of my first six years, she did her best as a struggling single mother to raise me. When I was four

years old, she again had to choose between having a second child or terminating the pregnancy. She chose abortion.

Her circumstances forced her to make a decision that she said only recently has she come to terms with. Growing up in a Baptist church-going home, she knew that abortion was wrong, but she said she made the only decision that seemed right at the time.

When I was 6, God blessed my mother with a new husband, and me with siblings and a stepfather who took an interest in me and loved me as his own. My mother even had another child, my younger sister Jamie.

The Lord also moved in my mother's life a few years later and brought her back to a closer relationship with God, with me in tow. Since then, she has

dedicated her life to sharing Christ's love with everyone, especially children.

Despite her faith, she said she still struggled with the guilt of her abortion more than 27 years ago. She noted that most women who are post-abortion do not feel that they can be forgiven for that act. They often feel that a mother's highest calling is to protect her child, and when she chooses to end its life, that is unforgivable.

My mother's response profoundly struck me: "To say that God cannot forgive an abortion is to tell Him that His blood is not enough."

This is the message that my mother now delivers through Crestwood Church's GRACE Ministry for post-abortion women. Statistics show those women are out there. It is

estimated that one in four women age 45 or younger have had at least one abortion. Seventy percent of those women claim some sort of Christian affiliation.

The confidential ministry encourages women to Grieve the past; Receive forgiveness; Allow healing to begin; Choose to forgive; and End the silence.

End her silence is just what my mother did on Sanctity of Human Life Sunday in January. She said she wants to encourage other women who have chosen abortions in the past to give that burden over to Christ and receive His forgiveness.

I'm thankful for my mother and her love of Christ. I see it in her every time I'm around her — it's unavoidable. I also thank God that He allowed her to choose to have me. I'm not so vain to believe that this editorial space would be empty if I weren't here, but it's humbling to have the opportunity to write this.

As God told Jeremiah, "Before I formed you in the womb, I knew you. Before you were born, I set you apart for my holy purpose."

Nichter is news director for the Western Recorder, the news journal of the Kentucky Baptist Convention. His commentary appears courtesy of Baptist Press.

SBC Exec. Comm. to study church's actions

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP) — The Southern Baptist Convention's Executive Committee unanimously agreed Feb. 17 to continue to study whether the convention should remain affiliated with Broadway Church, a historic Fort Worth, Texas, congregation that was involved last year in a controversy over whether homosexual couples should be pictured in a church directory.

The Executive Committee began studying the church's affiliation last year after a messenger at the SBC annual meeting in June made a motion that the convention declare Broadway Church not to be "in friendly cooperation" with the denomination.

Article III of the SBC Constitution states that churches "which act to affirm, approve, or endorse homosexual behavior" are not in friendly cooperation.

The church last February decided in a 294-182 vote to publish a directory without family portraits but with candid shots of members involved in various ministries and activities. Additionally, the pastor who had presided over the controversy, Brett Younger, resigned from the church in June to take a position at McAfee School of Theology in Georgia.

He left the church after a vote to oust him failed, 68-32%. Church members, though, said the desire by some to remove Younger had less to do with the issue of homosexuality and more to do with a host of other issues, including his leadership and his support of a project that allowed homeless people to stay at the church at night.

The Executive Committee agreed that the study should continue and that "further inquiries and continued communications with the church be made," with the goal of "arriving at an appropriate report" to the convention at the June annual meeting in Louisville, Ky.

The church has about 1,400 members with 400 to 500 attendees on Sunday mornings. Three people from the church — interim pastor Charles Johnson, minister of congregation care Jorene Taylor Swift, and denominational relations committee member Lyn Robbins — voluntarily appeared and asked members of the Bylaws Workgroup and the Administration Subcommittee, both of which considered the matter, not to recommend breaking the relationship.

Much of the discussion during the workgroup and the subcommittee meetings focused on a Jan. 27 letter the church sent to the Executive Committee, which stated in part: "Broadway has never taken any church action to affirm, approve, or endorse homosexual behavior. Broadway Baptist Church considers itself to be in friendly

cooperation with the Southern Baptist Convention and has every intention of remaining so." It further stated, "While we extend Christian hospitality to everyone — including homosexuals — we do not endorse, approve, or affirm homosexual behavior."

The letter also said the church chose a directory without family portraits because it believed such an action would not send the message the church endorsed homosexuality. The letter was approved by the church's deacons and presented to the church with no objections.

Some members of the workgroup and subcommittee said they would welcome a stronger statement from the church on homosexuality so as to further disassociate itself from the church directory controversy. The church is autonomous and must decide the matter on its own.

"The committee has asked us to sort of strengthen our statement on the matter of homosexuality," Johnson, the interim pastor, told Baptist Press. "We receive that challenge ... and we're going to take it very seriously and prayerfully and go back to our congregation and follow the light and leadership of the spirit of God."

Johnson said he was "very heartened" and "encouraged" by discussions with committee members throughout the day. The Bylaws Workgroup and Administrative Subcommittee meetings each went past their scheduled end times, with members asking Johnson and the other two church representatives pointed questions about the church's position on homosexuality.

Johnson, who began serving in his role in July, told Baptist Press he came to the committee meeting in order to tell members the church does not endorse homosexuality and to urge them not to act while the church "is healing" from losing not only its pastor but some of its members following last year's controversies.

The church has about five members who are homosexual, with two of them serving on committees. The five joined Broadway Baptist by letter from other churches, and it only later was discovered they were homosexual, committee members were told.

In other business, Executive Committee members:

- approved a 2009-10 Cooperative Program Allocation



MAKING THEIR POINTS — Broadway Baptist Church's Jorene Taylor Swift (left) talks to Executive Committee member Rick Lineberger (right), as Broadway interim pastor Charles Johnson (second from left) speaks with Executive Committee member Jim Law. The Executive Committee voted Feb. 17 to continue studying whether the church is in friendly cooperation with the Southern Baptist Convention. (BP photo)

budget of \$204,385,592 for recommendation to the Southern Baptist Convention during its June 23-24 annual meeting in Louisville, Ky.

The proposed budget maintains current allocations to the convention's ministries, including 50% of receipts to the International Mission Board and 22.79% to the North American Mission Board. The convention's six seminaries will receive 21.92%.

According to the seminary enrollment formula, Southern Seminary would receive 4.96%; Southwestern Seminary, 4.84%; New Orleans Seminary, 4.39%; Southeastern Seminary, 4.04%; Golden Gate Seminary, 1.80%; and Midwestern Seminary, 1.90%. (Cumulative numbers may not match the sum of individual seminary percentages due to rounding.)

The Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission would continue to receive 1.65% of the budget, while the Southern Baptist Historical Library and Archives would receive .24%.

The SBC Operating Budget, encompassing the SBC annual meeting costs, the work of the convention between annual

meetings and the Executive Committee, would receive 3.40% of the CP budget.

- voted to decline further action on a motion referred from the 2008 annual meeting in Indianapolis asking that the Executive Committee and other Baptist entities "creatively consider how the week of the Convention could also be used to educate, encourage, and equip ministers and laity through seminars, conferences, and seminary classes."

The Executive Committee noted that, after having "conducted a review of the matter and collected entity input," it believes that "the current availability of, and opportunities for, events preceding, during, or after the SBC Annual Meeting are sufficient, that the bylaws do not materially impede further development of such opportunities, and that the entities will continue to coordinate and provide events as feasible to support the work and mission of Southern Baptists."

- voted to continue the current policy of requiring a \$38,000 reimbursement from the Pastors' Conference for use of the meeting hall and facilities.

Looking back

10 years ago

Central Hills Retreat breaks ground on a \$1.75 million building project Feb. 23, which will include new lodges, an assembly building, maintenance facility and improved roads.

20 years ago

Carolyn Weatherford, 59, executive director of the Woman's Missionary Union auxiliary, announces she will retire and marry James Joseph "Joe" Crumpler Sr., pastor of the Mt. Carmel Church, Cincinnati, Ohio. The wedding will take place in Birmingham.

50 years ago

Southern Baptist Convention membership tops nine million, with seven million in Sunday School, according to J.P. Edmunds, secretary of research and statistics for the Baptist Sunday School Board in Nashville.



THE SECOND FRONT PAGE

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**YOU CAN RESPOND
RIGHT NOW!**

Simply share the following prayer with God in your own words:

1. Lord, I admit that I need you. (I have sinned.)

2. I want forgiveness for my sins and freedom from eternal death. (I repent.)

3. I believe Jesus died and rose from the grave to forgive my sins and to restore my relationship with you. (I believe in Jesus.)

4. By faith, I invite Jesus Christ into my life. From this time on, I want to live in a loving relationship with Him. (I receive Christ as my Savior and Lord.)

"But as many as received him, to them he gave the right to become children of God, even to those who believe in his name." (John 1:12)

If you make a decision for Jesus Christ today, contact a local Baptist church for spiritual guidance.

BIBLIOCIPHER

By Charles Marx, 1932 - 2004
© 2005

TJ CXD HBLTJITL LEU

RBDZEDU CXD XDZODJ

ZJU CXD DZBCX.

LDJDGTG EJD: EJD

Clue: H = B

Have fun with cryptography and exercise your Bible knowledge. A King James Version Bible verse has been encoded by letter substitution. The same letter is substituted throughout the puzzle. Solve by trial and error. Answer to last week's puzzle: Romans Ten: Eleven

not of error at all
eternal life is the
a gift of God
not earned by works
Romans 10:11

He is the Son of God
who is the Son of Man

THE BIBLE

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DEALING WITH DEATH

We are not very good at dealing with death. The first time death occurs in scripture is found in Genesis 4. A brother kills a brother and suddenly the human race is forced to face mortality. In this incident, it might be called premature death. In Genesis 5, there is a long list of deaths. It is an obituary page in the Bible. With each description of the great people listed, the conclusion is in every case, "And he died." Paul writes in I Corinthians 15:26, "The last enemy to be destroyed is death." That sounds good and in fact, it is glorious but it leaves the question before us of how do you deal with death now.

Even as believers we hold triumphantly to the great doctrine of the Resurrection and know that Jesus promised because He lives, we will live also. We look to heaven with all of its glory and joy but are resistant to actually wanting to go there. We hold on to our cute little statements like maybe when we have a birthday and something is said about us getting older, life having more challenges, and we respond, "Well it beats the alternative!" Really? Probably not, but it is the way we think. How do you deal with death? How do you bring it to be a part of the normal process of life? I really am not writing in order to depress or discourage you, but since all of us are going to be at the front of the line of those departing one day, it may be good to think about how we are going to deal with death.

What got me started thinking about death was not a funeral, a hospital stay, or the



Directions

Jim Futral, executive director-treasurer
Mississippi Baptist Convention Board

loss of a loved one. It was my hummingbirds. I believe I had more hummingbirds feeding at our house this past summer than I ever have. They are just the most fascinating little creatures to me. I love to see them as they come, feed, fuss, fight, and dart about. As fall arrives every year almost at the snap of your fingers, it happens. They are gone. I do not know how they know to leave nor do I know where they go, but they are gone. I did not ask them to go, but they are gone. When they left and went on their migration south to wherever they are going to end up, I got to thinking about how much I miss them.

Almost immediately, I began to think about what they left behind. They are so small, so insignificant that most people do not even pay attention to them when they are around, but for some of us they leave memories, blessings, and impressions on our hearts that can never be removed. At times, they look like they are lined up waiting one behind the other to come and eat. At other times, they seem to be like heavyweight boxers just bumping in to one another, swooping down, and putting a lick on each other. They are so small,

just ounces with fast little wings and a long little beak. You would think that you could forget about them, but you cannot because they leave so many wonderful, delightful, and homespun experiences behind.

At times through the years when someone would lose a son or daughter in the early years of life I would wonder why. What, if anything, did they leave behind? In most cases while you may wonder about why did life end or why did it end so soon, you begin to give thanks for all of the incredible, unique blessings and delightful memories they left with you. Maybe it was the smile they would give you when you came into the room, the uniqueness of their laugh when funny things happened in your family, or the special warmth that you feel when you remember the compassion they had when a puppy got hurt or a kitten died. It may be the courage you experience as you remember the way they faced some of the difficulties in their path. If we are completely honest, most of the time we recognize that some, if not most of the folks we miss, left more with us than we ever realized.

Another thing that occurred to me when the hummingbirds left is the fact that it was the best thing. Now I could make a case for it being a bad thing. They are unique creatures, and some of them are so beautifully painted. All of them seem to have an interesting and sometimes fascinating personality, but it was time for them to go.

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wall crosses, pew cushions, kirkglas, car-
pet, signs. Church Supply Company of
Texas, 800-728-8291.

Now the fact is that those lit-
tle birds needed to go on to
another environment because
they would not be able to with-
stand the surroundings that
they would be caught in if they
stayed. Mississippi summers
can be warm and humid, but
for the little hummingbirds, it is
doubtful that they could live
through the bone-chilling
nights, the occasionally freez-
ing rain, or a southern snow.
They needed to go on to a new
environment and they did.

In beautiful ways, the Bible
pictures that for the believer as
he or she comes to death. It is
time to go on and be in a new
environment. In the Old
Testament, the phrase is occa-
sionally found, "And he was
gathered unto his people." That
is beautiful. The person is going
on to be in a new environment
that is filled with strong and
meaningful relationships. It was
time to go. In the New
Testament, John describes, "I
saw a new heaven and a new
earth, a place where God makes
all things new." There are things
that are worse than death. After
the struggle with disease and
pain and the difficulty of getting
a breath or taking a step some-
times, it is time to go.

A final thought about
death or about my little hum-
mingbirds is that there is a
future and this is not the
end. I do not know how
many years I have been feed-
ing hummingbirds, but it has
been for a good while. I hate
to see them leave, but even as
they do, I start making prepa-
rations for them to come back.
I get my feeder cleaned up
and put it in a place where I
will be able to get my hands
on it. After an absence of sev-
eral months, as Spring starts
inching its way north, I will
stir up some nectar, hang the
feeder back out, and as I have
opportunity at early morning
dawn at sunrise, I will watch
to see if they are coming to
eat. Then in the evening
when I get home, I will watch
to see if any activity is taking
place. Sure enough, every
year time and time again I
welcome them back.

In Christ, we can deal with
death because He has
promised us the reunion will
take place. He has made pro-
visions to have new and unin-
terrupted relationships and so
we can say and we can mean
it, "Thanks be to God that
giveth us the victory through
our Lord Jesus Christ."

The author can be contacted
at jfutral@mbcb.org.

What I tell you in the darkness, speak in the light; and what you hear whispered in your ear, proclaim upon the

HOUSE TOPS

Matthew 10:27 NAS

February 26, 2009

HouseTops is a Baptist Record supplement produced by the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board's Communication Services.



REFRESH

*Come into me, all you who are weary ... and
I will give you rest. ... Come from now, for I am weary myself.*

FOCUSING ON KINGDOM ESSENTIALS

A conference for congregational leaders seeking spiritual strength and refreshment so that they may serve more effectively in the Kingdom of Christ.

CONFERENCE HEADLINERS

Don Wilton - Keynote Speaker

T.W. Hunt - Spiritual Growth for Leaders

Tony Merida - Sunday Sermon Preparation

Lavon Gray - Worship: Then, Now and Forever

Tommy King - Balancing Bivocational Ministry and Lifestyle

May 30, 2009

9 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.

**Temple BC
Hattiesburg**

Missions Extravaganza for Preschoolers and Children

1st-6th grade children who are coming with their parents are invited to participate in a Missions Extravaganza. Child care will be provided for all preschoolers who are coming with their parents, by the Preschool Ministry Department at Temple Baptist Church. There is no cost for the child care or the Missions Extravaganza, however preregistration is required. The deadline to register is Friday, May 15, 2009. To register for the Missions Extravaganza or child care, please call Diane Howell in the Preschool Ministry Department at Temple Baptist Church, Hattiesburg, at 601-450-3069.

For more information, contact Laura Marler in Mission Strategy at the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, 800-748-1651, ext. 231, 601-292-3231, or E-mail: lmarler@mbcb.org.

CABIN LEADERS NEEDED AT GARAYWA FOR SUMMER

Garaywa Camp and Conference Center is home to hundreds of girls each summer and we need cabin leaders to help it be a successful camping season! If you are a college female who loves children, has a heart for missions, and wants to serve the Lord this summer.

APPLY QUICKLY.

For FAQ, a list of qualifications, and an application, visit http://www.mbcb.org/business_services/camps/cg/staff.aspx or call Erica Harms at 601-292-3315.

MISSIONS NOW WEEKEND "REAL"

A coed missions weekender for 7th-12th grade students and their leaders.

April 3-5, 2009

Morrison Heights BC, Clinton

(located at the old campus on Morrison Drive)

Cost \$25

Preregistration required

Registration deadline: March 9

For more info, contact the Mississippi WMU at 601-292-3316, 1-800-748-1651 or kredditt@mbcb.org

FamilyFESTSM Natchez, Mississippi July 18-23, 2009

FamilyFestSM is a pre-packaged missions trip for families, adult teams and student teams. It is ministry driven. This FamilyFEST is a partnership between national WMU,[®] Mississippi Baptist Convention departments (MS WMU, the Men's Ministry, and Adams Baptist Association and local participating churches.)

REGISTRATION DEADLINES

EARLY BIRD: April 18,		REGULAR: May 18
Individual	\$125	\$140
Family of 2	\$225	\$255
Family of 3	\$325	\$370
Family of 4	\$400	\$460
Family of 5 or more	\$500	\$575

TO REGISTER:

CALL

(205)991-8100 OR
VISIT

[www.wmu.com/
volunteerconnection](http://www.wmu.com/volunteerconnection)

State contacts: Tammy Anderson (MS WMU) or Don Gann (Men's Ministry) 1-800-748-1651

SINGLE Life Conference

Conferences begin at 6:30 and end at 8:30 p.m.
(Free meal provided.)

Thursday
March 19
FBC, Sumrall

- Five Love Languages for Singles: Glenn Shows, MBCB
 - Singleness with a Purpose: Becky Brown, Recording Artist and Author, Richland
- For info on either of these conferences, contact the Discipleship and Family Ministry Department

21st ANNUAL FAMILY LIFE CONFERENCES
7:00 - 9:00 p.m.

Tuesday, March 3
New Bethel BC, Philadelphia
662-656-2301

- Love Languages of the Family by Glenn Shows, Family Consultant, MBCB
- Finances in the Family by Jerry Mixon, Stewardship Director, MBCB

For more information, contact Discipleship & Family Ministry
601-292-3284
1-800-748-1651
dbrashier@mbcb.org

SINGLES' PURPOSE EVENT

Saturday, March 7
FBC, Laurel

Speaker: Ron Mumbower
10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.
\$5 (includes lunch)

Break-outs: Throwing off Burdens

Joy for the Journey
Missions: "Block Party"

Sponsored by MBCB Discipleship and Family Ministry Department

To register, call 601-649-8114 or
E-mail: evajcbo@aol.com
Register before March 2 and receive
a devotion book and a nice gift bag.

Campamento para Damas Hispanic Women's Retreat

March 13-14, 2009
Central Hills Baptist Retreat

"At HIS Feet"

Cost - \$25

For registration form and detailed information contact
Maria Elena Treviño at 662-538-0777 / homerote@iname.com
Glenda Tzib at 662-488-0349 / rockytzib@bellsouth.net
Ana Silva at 662-456-7494 / church8855@bellsouth.net
Paula Smith at 800-748-1651, ext. 336 / psmith@mbcb.org



Special Guest Teacher
Mirtha Esther
Baltodano

Originally from Peru,
Mirtha is ministering
with her husband at
"Dios Es Amor" Baptist
Church in Ensenada,
Baja California.

Church Facilities & Furnishings

WORKSHOP

March 17, 8:30 a.m.-3 p.m.

Parkway Baptist Church

For: pastors, staff members,
building committees,
long-range planning committees, business administrators
and maintenance/ property personnel.

For more info: Pastor/Leadership Development Department
601-292-2305, 1-800-748-1651
kmcdonnell@mbcb.org or kgordon@mbcb.org

2009 Senior Adult Retreats

I. May 18 & 19 at FBC, Holly Springs

Preacher: Clarence Cooper,
Brandon BC, Brandon
Choirs: I. FBC, Calhoun City
II. FBC, New Albany
The Gathering I: FBC Calhoun City Choir
The Gathering II: Dulcimer Band, NE, Miss.

II. May 21 & 22 at FBC, Louisville

Preacher: Argile Smith, FBC, Biloxi
Choirs: I. FBC, Madison
II. Sunrise, FBC, Jackson
The Gathering I: Ragger Roos,
Raymond
The Gathering II: Sunrise, FBC,
Jackson

III. May 25 & 26 at FBC, Biloxi

Preacher: Bill Baker,
Former pastor at FBC, Clinton
Choirs: I. FBC, Hattiesburg
II. Cottage Hills, Mobile, Ala.
The Gathering I: John Yates, Enterprise, Ala.
The Gathering II: First Love, Metro Area

For more information, contact Discipleship & Family Ministry, 601-292-3284, 1-800-748-1651, dbrashier@mbcb.org



Growing Churches Conference

"...for the training of the saints in the work
of the ministry, to build up the body of Christ ..."
Ephesians 4:12 (HCSB)

Friday & Saturday
July 24-25, 2009
Harrisburg Baptist Church
4675 Cliff Gookin Blvd.
Tupelo, MS 38801

Questions call: Lee Association: 662-566-1700 or MBCB Discipleship & Family Ministry Department, 1-800-748-1651
Sponsored by MS Baptist Convention & North MS Baptist Associations

MISSISSIPPI KIDS' CAMP

Central Hills Baptist Retreat Kosciusko, Miss.

Week I - June 22-24, 2009

Week II - June 25-27, 2009

FOR KIDS WHO HAVE COMPLETED GRADES 3-6

HIGHLIGHTS

- Worship
- Church Bible study
- Adventure Ropes course
- Horseback riding
- Archery/Rifery • Fishing

COST \$150

For registration
information, please
contact MBCB
Conference Office
at (601) 292-3216.

Young Pastors Retreat

The Baptist Conference Ministry

TAKE THE RETREAT TO YOURSELF
March 26-27, 2009

The retreat brings together young pastors to focus on the essentials of ministry and good pastoral work in today's environment. Opportunities will be provided to network with other young pastors from across the state and dialogue about current realities in ministry. Plan to attend for your benefit and the benefit of other young pastors.

Leaders: Steve Stone and Alan Woodward

STUDENT WEEKS GRADES 7-12

NO LIMITS

Jesus said, "Didn't I tell you that if you believed, you would see the glory of God?"
John 11:40

May 30-June 3

Gary Permenter and
Randy Tolleson
William Carey University, Hattiesburg

June 3-7

Ben Skipper and
Opie Thomas
William Carey University, Hattiesburg

June 11-15

Jon Daniels and
Will Reedy
Central Hills Baptist Retreat, Kosciusko

June 18-22

Chris Thomas and
Brian Dedmon
Blue Mountain College, Blue Mountain

June 22-26

Grant Stegall and
Kevin Williams
Blue Mountain College, Blue Mountain

STUDENT WEEKS PROGRAM INFO:

Huey Dedmon
Student Ministry Specialist
hdedmon@mbcb.org
1-800-748-1651, ext. 320
601-292-3320
OR
Lee Ann Boykin
601-292-3292
1-800-748-1651, ext. 292
lboykin@mbcb.org

VBS CHURCH LEADERSHIP TRAINING

April 14

Calvary BC, Macon
Clarksdale BC, Clarksdale
Siloam BC, Meadville

April 16

Gaston BC, Booneville
Parkway BC, Kosciusko
Temple West BC, Hattiesburg

April 21

FBC, Belzoni
FBC, Oxford

CONFERENCES

- Preach to Children
- Youth and Adult
- Pastors, Evangelists and Church Officers
- Children's Ministry
- Missions, Music, Crafts and Games
- Club VBS, Youth Link

PACK YOUR BAGS!

Preregister now to receive an inflatable koala. Be the first to preregister and receive a GIANT inflatable kangaroo

For more information contact Angie Boydstun at
aboydstun@mbcb.org or
Lee Ann Boykin at lboykin@mbcb.org
or call 1-800-748-1651, ext. 292, or 601-292-3292

2009 State Singles' Retreat 30th Anniversary May 16 & 17 Central Hills, Kosciusko

"Single Life with a Plus"

Break-outs

- Laughing ever after (Phil. 4:4)
Judy Marby, Destin, Fla
- Spiritual Gifts
Wayne Hudson, Vancleave
- Building Boundaries
James Hayes, Biloxi
- Track I ... (for ages 25 to 35)
Worship and Bible study
led by Casey Combest

Worship and celebration
with Moses Caesar, Tennessee
A moment with God
"Miss Chocolate,"
Gwen Williams, Picayune

Cost: \$40, commuter \$15

To register, call 1-800-748-1651, ext. 216, or
mail fee to MBCB Conference Ministry Office, PO
Box 530, Jackson MS 39205.

DEADLINE TO REGISTER IS MAY 8.

Pray this day for...

Feb. 27-March 12, 2009

Prayer Ministry Office • P.O. Box 530 • Jackson, MS 39205-0530 • Phone 601-292-3304 • Mississippi PrayerLine 1-800-787-7729 (PRAY)

"Though the fig tree does not bud and there are no grapes on the vines, though the olive crop fails and the fields produce no food, though there are no sheep in the pen and no cattle in the stalls, yet I will rejoice in the Lord, I will be joyful in God my Savior."
Habakkuk 3:17-18

(1) North American Missions & Annie Armstrong Easter Offering Emphasis: 1st-8th (wMu/Emphasis); (2) Pray for believers in our churches to develop the vision to live sacrificially in their personal lives in order to give more to missions and things that will last for eternity.

Pray for the many preparations that are being made at this time to facilitate over 200 collegiate summer missionaries to North America and around the world.

Pray for Kevin and Pam Shearer, Missisippians serving in Peru. With new opportunities and assignments, Kevin will be traveling extensively over the next few months seeking to find ways that Peruvian followers can be involved in carrying the Gospel to Peru and the Nations.

Pray for a Mississippi missionary family in Central Asia. The country in which they serve has made it very difficult for their visa to be renewed. Several Mississippi Baptist churches are connected with this family and the great work they are doing.

(1) North Spring Training - Regional Training for Youth Ministers, FBC, Tupelo, (D&FM); (2) Pray for supernatural wisdom for our youth ministers to know how to relate to and counsel the youth of our day. Pray for the strength and creativity of our youth ministers.

(1) South Spring Training Regional Training for Youth Ministers, FBC, Biloxi (D&FM); (2) Pray for supernatural wisdom for our youth ministers to know how to relate to and counsel the youth of our day. Pray for the strength and creativity of our youth ministers.

Pray for Steve and Kay Griffin from Mantee BC as they serve for several months in East Asia as English teachers. Pray that they will be able to build relationships with their students and have the opportunity to share their faith.

Pray for Mississippi sponsored church planters in Kazakhstan. Pray a prayer of praise to God for the decreased restrictions on religious practice in Kazakhstan. Pray that God would "plow the soil of the hearts" of the people to be ready to receive the seed of the gospel and grow into mature believers.

Pray for: (1) the Hispanic pastors and churches in Mississippi; (2) for these churches as they seek to reach the Hispanic population of MS as well as discover where they might be involved in missions around the world.

Clary Baptist Church is planning a vision journey in April. Pray for them as they prepare to go and for the unengaged, unreached people group they will be visiting in South Asia.

Pray for (1) Christian Performing Arts Festival, Ridgecrest BC, Madison, 27th-28th (D&FM); (2) a team from Longview Point BC, Hernando, who are currently serving in Kenya (Feb. 20 - March 2) through medical ministry and evangelism; (3) God to open many doors to share the Gospel with the people they meet.

(1) State Keyboard Festival, Woodland Hills BC, Jackson (CM); (2) Pray that all of the musicians in our Mississippi churches would be blessed with the ability to lead people into a spirit of worship which will bring glory to God and draw believers deeply into His presence.

(1) Chaplains' Spring Retreat, Garaywa, Clinton, 6th-7th (MM); Pray that God would give extra measures of strength and compassion to chaplains as they constantly minister to hurting people on a regular basis.

(1) Christian Education Clinic, Ridgecrest BC, Madison; (2) Pray that believers will grow in their faith as a result of the educational programs in our churches and become teachers of others.



2009 WTM May 1-2, 2009

Colonial Heights BC, Ridgeland

BANQUET SPEAKER: DAN MODISETT

General Manager, WLBT 3, Jackson

WORKSHOPS

- **Fundamentals of Camera Operation** - Led by Don Moore and David Bunker Participants will walk through the basic camera operations such as framing, functions and camera directions.
- **Creative Production Techniques** - Led by Don Moore and David Bunker Creating spots, outreach videos, devotional thoughts, VBS promotion, budget presentations and others for the local church.
- **Sound Advice Basic** - Led by Trooper Hales Participants will receive audio tips and production techniques for the sound operator (house and broadcast).
- **Sound Advice Advanced** - Led by Trooper Hales This question and answer format will go a step further in helping both broadcast and house audio operators with practical ideas.
- **Basic Graphic Design** - Led by Chuck McIntosh Learn a basic knowledge of design for print and how to use them through the ministry of your church.
- **Getting Started on the Web** - Led by J.C. Howell Internet beginners can see what you need to know about getting online and publishing a church Web page.

- **Web Site Design Advanced** - Led by J.C. Howell Participants who have a basic knowledge of web site design and want to take your church web page to the next level.
- **Projection Systems Forum** - Led by Damon Burgess If you are interested in, familiar with, just bought or looking for ways to use your video projection system, this question and answer seminar is for you.
- **How Did They Do That?** - Led by Don Warren (1 hour session for everyone) Examples will be shown. Share your samples ... bring on DVD format.
- **Motion Graphics for Worship** - Led by Spencer Smith Participants will see examples of motion graphics as used in worship.

COST

Friday and Saturday cost is \$25 per person and does include all meals and conference materials. For churches bringing four or more persons for Friday and Saturday, the cost is \$20 per person.

Registration deadline is April 17, 2009.

For more info, contact Communication Services, 601-292-3378, 1-800-748-1651 or jchen@mbcb.org

Called to Love ...

Amazing Grace
May 1-2, Garaywa

wMu ALT &
Annual Missions Celebration

**Annual Missions
Celebration
with Annual Meeting**

Saturday, May 2, 2009
10:30 a.m. - noon

featuring
**Donna Swarts
Kay Cassibry
Matt & Shea, IMB**

For registration info: MS wMu, 601-292-3317;
1-800-748-1651, ext. 317; lmill@mbcb.org
or www.mbcb.org/missions_strategy/wmu

HOUSE TOPS

Pastor: pilot of doomed plane left 'wonderful legacy'

LUTZ, Fla. (BP) — Marvin Renslow, the pilot of a commuter plane that crashed Feb. 12, left a "wonderful legacy" as his family's spiritual leader, Alan Burner, an associate pastor at First Church in Lutz, FL, told the Florida Baptist Witness, news journal of the Florida Baptist Convention.

Renslow, 47, was at the controls of the Continental Connection Flight 3407 from Newark, N.J., to Buffalo, N.Y., when it crashed into a house in a suburban neighborhood just six miles from the Buffalo airport, killing 44 passengers, four crew members, an off-duty pilot, and one person on the ground.

The husband and father of two joined the Tampa Bay-area church in 1997 with his wife Sandra (Sandy). Their children, Tyler, 17, and Kaley, 12, were baptized at the church and all have been active members who attend "virtually every Sunday," Burner said.

Marvin Renslow also was an accomplished drummer who played on occasion at the church.

"Obviously they are grieving, but Marvin has left a wonderful legacy of spirituality. He was firm in his foundation as the spiritual leader of his family," Burner said. "They are all very strong in their faith and in their understanding that God is sovereign."

Burner and his wife were at the family home with Sandy when she received the second phone call from the airline telling her there were "no survivors" from the crash.

"They may not be grieving as they would want them to grieve," Burner said of the Renslows, who attended worship on Sunday after the accident, "but grieving with joy in their hearts and proud of their dad and husband and knowing that they will be with him again."

Burner said the 900-member congregation immediately surrounded the Renslows with care

and have been bringing food and other items to the home. The people in the couple's small group Bible study have kept in constant touch.

Continental Airlines flew in Martha Martin, Sandy's sister, and her husband Tracy from Austin, Texas, to be with Sandy as well, Burner said.

In the Midwest, members of Renslow's family remembered him as an ace bowler, according to the Des Moines Register. Marvin, who grew up in Shenandoah, Iowa, learned the skill from his mother, Shirley, who gave junior league bowling lessons.

"He was my hero, and I'll miss him," Marvin's older sister Shirlene Thiesfeld of Kansas City, Mo., told the Register.

Calling him a man of God and an example to his children, Renslow's friends said he stayed in touch after graduating from high school and leaving Iowa to pursue his dream of flying.

Renslow's son Tyler, who shared a set of drums with his father, has had a constant stream of friends surrounding him in the past several days.

Teens from the high school Tyler attends have been in and out of the home, acting as "extended family," Burner told the Witness, while those connected to the elementary school where Sandy works have expressed their concern as well.

At church on Sunday in Lutz, the names of those who died scrolled on a big screen behind choir members while Amazing Grace played. It was a "God thing" that Sandy and the children were held up in traffic and didn't slip in until the end of the song, when only Marvin's name was still visible, Burner said, else the pain might have been too much.

Burner said he wanted to remind the congregation of the other families who were suffering as well, and extend sympathy to them on behalf of the congregation.



FATHER REMEMBERED — Marvin Renslow, the pilot of a commuter plane that crashed Feb. 12, is shown here with his wife Sandy and their two children, Kaley and Tyler. (BP photo)

"This Sunday was different from any other in the life of the church," Burner recalled telling the congregation. "Our church family has experienced tragedy because one of our families has experienced tragedy."

It also was different because senior pastor Charles White, who typically preaches the Sunday sermon, was out of the country on a mission trip. Drawing on Psalm 23, Burner said he delivered an evangelistic message challenging listeners to make sure to choose the "Good Shepherd," Jesus, as Marvin Renslow had done.

"We consider our mortality when these things happen," Burner said, admitting to preaching out a sense of urgency. "It was a sense of God's giving us a message here and He's letting us know that our time on earth is undetermined and He's letting us know

we need to be prepared for the life He has for us in heaven."

According to the National Transportation Safety Board, Renslow had been with the airline for nearly three and a half years and had logged 3,379

hours of flying time. Their investigation has so far not found anything mechanically wrong with the plane, but has focused on icy conditions. A full investigation is expected to last at least a year.

REVIVALS AND HOMECOMINGS

1. **Hepzibah Church, Silver Creek: Homecoming, May 17;** services, 11 a.m., followed by dinner on the grounds, wagon rides, old-fashioned dress, and singing. James Messer, speaker.
2. **Holly Springs Church, Lincoln Association: Homecoming, Mar. 15;** Sunday School, 9:30 a.m., followed by short business meeting, Tim Frith & Gospel Echoes, and covered dish lunch.
4. **Friendship Church, McComb: Revival, Mar. 6 - 8; Fri. - Sat., 6:30 p.m.; Sun., 10:45 a.m. and 1 p.m. with noon lunch;** Jad Khalaf, Jimmy Smith, and Billy Joe Deer, speakers; Richard Fortenberry, music; LaVerne Summerlin, pastor.
5. **Benton Church, Benton: Revival, Mar. 1 - 4; Sun., 10:30 a.m. and 5 p.m.; Mon. - Wed., 7 p.m.;** Darby Combs, speaker; Frank Stiedle, worship leader; Charles Moore, pastor.
6. **Trinity Church, Monroe County: Revival, Mar. 15 - 18; Sun., 9:45 a.m. and 6 p.m.; Mon. - Wed., 7 p.m.;** Lloyd Minor, Bill Monaghan, Lloyd Sweatt, George Collins, Bill Payne, speakers; Bill Monaghan, music.

MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST FOUNDATION SCHOLARSHIP MINISTRY

It's that time of year.

SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS FOR THE 2009-2010 ACADEMIC YEAR WILL BE AVAILABLE ON OUR WEBSITE BEGINNING February 19, 2009.

VISIT

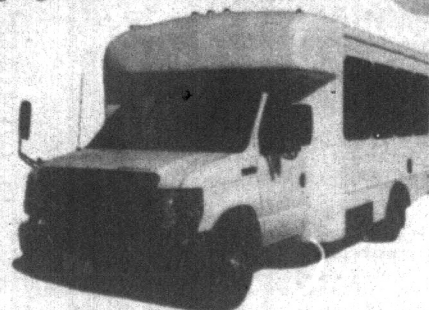
www.msbbaptistfoundation.org
TO COMPLETE YOUR APPLICATION



The Mississippi Baptist Foundation's Scholarship Ministry provides needs-based supplemental financial assistance to Mississippi students who are pursuing a degree at a Mississippi Baptist college or a Southern Baptist seminary. For more information about the MBF Scholarship Ministry, please visit our website, www.msbbaptistfoundation.org. Scholarship applications for the 2009-2010 academic year will be available on our website beginning February 19, 2009. Completed applications must be received in the MBF office by April 30.

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Modern-language Chinese New Testament ready

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP)—A Bible publisher's answered prayer is about to become a dream come true for potentially millions of Chinese Christians: a modern translation of the New Testament in their own language.

Holman Bible Publishers has received a printing of 20,000 Chinese Standard Bible New Testaments, described as the first direct Chinese translation by scholars from the original Greek. Copies are now being sold in the United States, Canada and Brazil.

Holman Bible Publishers is affiliated with LifeWay Christian Resources of the Southern Baptist Convention.

"Our goal is that Chinese Christians would read this translation and love it," said Phill Burgess, executive director of LifeWay's Holman Bible Outreach International. "The translation that Chinese Christians have been using up

to now, the Chinese Union Version, was translated into Chinese from an English copy in the 1920s.

"The language in that translation is archaic. This one is easier to understand since it relates to the modern Chinese language."

In 2004, the Asia Bible Society approached LifeWay seeking a New Testament translated from the original Greek, and LifeWay signed on for the project.

"This request was an answer to prayer," Burgess said. "Having the opportunity to get the New Testament into the hands of Chinese-speaking people is a precious honor for us."

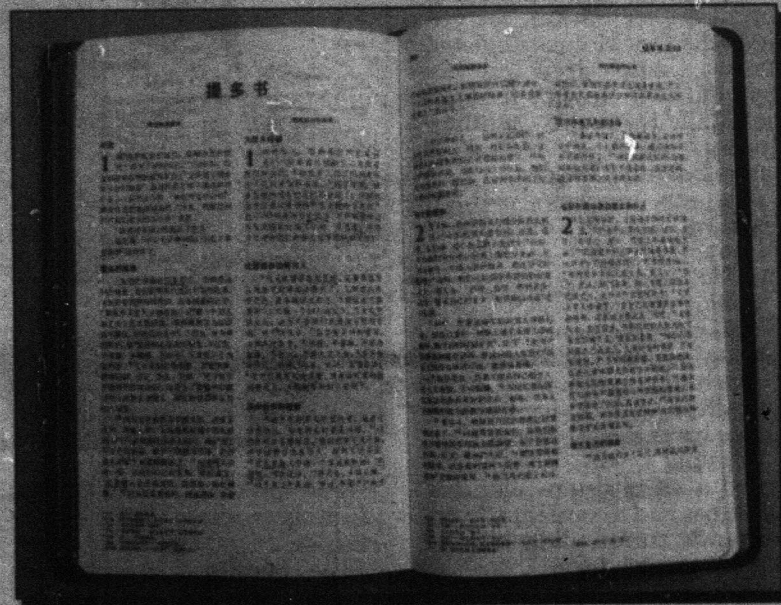
Publishing the Bibles in China (translating, editing and design) would be a difficult, time-consuming and expensive process, said Tim Jordan, an executive editor with LifeWay's B&H Publishing Group, which houses Holman Bible Publishers.

"In the future, LifeWay hopes to get legal approval from the Chinese government to publish Bibles in China," Jordan said. "Until then our primary focus will stay in the U.S., Canada, and Brazil."

The Bibles, however, are printed in Shenzhen, China, and transported back to LifeWay's distribution center in Lebanon, TN.

Having a current readable Bible in Chinese is important. Worldwide, an estimated 1.17 billion people are native speakers of Chinese. While spoken Chinese varies from region to region, the written language is common to most readers.

"This new translation is an investment," Jordan said. "We'll watch and see what the demand for the new Bible is."



NEW TRANSLATION — A copy of the new Chinese Standard Bible New Testament is open to Titus 1 and 2. Holman Bible Publishers has received a printing of 20,000 Chinese Standard Bible New Testaments, described as the first direct Chinese translation by scholars from the original Greek. Holman Bible Publishers is affiliated with LifeWay Christian Resources of the Southern Baptist Convention. (BP photo)

Visit us online at www.mbc.org to learn more about Mississippi Baptist opportunities.

Mississippi Baptist Minister to Host Alaska Cruise And Pacific Northwest Vacation

15-Days; Departs July 2, 2009 from \$2148*

"I liked this trip so much...we're going back!"

On July 2, 2009, join your Spiritual Director, Baptist Minister Rev. J. Barry Worrell on this 15-day vacation including a 7-day deluxe Alaska Cruise with Holland America Line and a 7-day Pacific Northwest vacation with Your Man Tours. Devotions will be made available for those in the group who wish to participate. This will be Rev. Worrell's second time hosting this YMT Baptist vacation package. The first was on this same Alaska Cruise and Pacific Northwest trip that departed June 12, 2005. For 22 years, Rev. Worrell has served as Minister of Music and Senior Adults at Emmanuel Baptist Church in Grenada, Mississippi. Your group will fly into Salt Lake City for a day with a city tour (including the Mormon Tabernacle, Beehive House and Great Salt Lake). Next your group will take a five day scenic drive to Vancouver by way of Jackson Hole, Wyoming; Grand Teton National Park; West Yellowstone & Yellowstone National Park (two days); Butte, Montana; Lake Coeur d'Alene; Spokane, Washington; and Penticton, BC before boarding your five-star ship, HAL's ms Volendam in Vancouver. Enjoy the 5-star Signature of Excellence Holland America Line is famous for! And take advantage of Baptist devotions for your group aboard ship! Travel through a wondrous maze of forested island and glacier-carved fjords, past charming coastal villages, migrating whales and calving glaciers to Juneau, Skagway, Glacier Bay National Park, and Ketchikan while sailing Alaska's Inside Passage. End your tour with one night in Seattle, Washington (with city tour) before flying home July 16, 2009. *Price per pers., dbl. occ.; includes port charges, government fees, taxes and services; Alaska visitor's tax; the seven-day deluxe Alaska cruise, seven nights hotels, baggage handling and lots of motor coach sightseeing throughout the Pacific Northwest. Airfare is extra.

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COLLEGE NEWS

1. Bonnie Cole, '13, who served 33 years at the Bogue Chitto post office, has endowed the Bonnie L. Cole Scholarship at Mississippi College. The new scholarship will help pay costs of MC students in the ministry or pursuing studies in nursing or medicine.
2. William Carey University will present the exhibit *Flourishing Blooms: Paintings by Tommie Rodgers* Feb. 26 through Apr. 2 in the Lucile Parker Gallery on the Hattiesburg campus. The opening reception is Mar. 5 from 6 until 7 p.m. The public is invited to the opening reception. The gallery is Monday through Friday from 1 p.m. until 4 p.m. and by special appointment by calling (601) 318-6528.
3. William Carey University will host a special Prayer Service on Sunday, Mar. 1 from 3 p.m. until 4 p.m. in the Smith Auditorium on the Hattiesburg campus. The service will kick off a series of events to celebrate Hattiesburg's 125 anniversary of incorporation. The interdenominational service will feature Hattiesburg churches and the Temple B'Nai Israel. Churches on program include Mt. Olive Church, First Presbyterian Church, St. Thomas Aquinas Catholic Church, University Assembly of God, Mt. Carmel Church, Trinity Episcopal Church, Temple Church, Main Street Methodist Church, First Church, and 38th Avenue Church. Music, scripture, and prayer will be included.

4. Mississippi College Night will bring hundreds of MC fans to Trustmark Park to see the champion Mississippi Braves in action April 20, 7:05 p.m. The second annual MC Night follows last season's initial event that attracted MC students, alumni, faculty, staff and other Choctaws to the beautiful ballpark in Pearl. Just like last April's game, Monday features \$1 hot dog night.



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This ad is provided by the Education Commission of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board. The Education Commission is the primary liaison between Mississippi Baptists and our three Baptist institutions of higher learning - Blue Mountain College, Mississippi College, and William Carey University. The commission acknowledges and is grateful for the support of MS Baptists for these three institutions. It is important to encourage potential students in our churches and youth programs to consider attending a Baptist college/university in Mississippi.

BIBLE STUDIES FOR LIFE

Be Aware

Nehemiah 1:1-11

By Arthur Story

Every follower of Jesus understands that he or she is created to serve God and join Him in His work. But, how do you recognize opportunities to join Him in His work? Nehemiah 1:1-11 reveals three steps to seizing the opportunities God gives you to be a part of advancing His work.

Look for the Need (Neh. 1:1-3)

The first step in seizing opportunities to serve God is to look for the need. While Nehemiah is talking with his brother Hanani and the men with him, Nehemiah asks about Jerusalem and the remnant that have returned from exile. They answer by telling him about the terrible state of both the people and the city.

Fortunately, Nehemiah is actually listening to their

answer rather than thinking about what he will say next or other responsibilities he must fulfill. As a result, the news about the state of the remnant and the city isn't handled casually by Nehemiah. He is troubled by the disgraceful state of both God's people and Jerusalem. He refuses to simply move on to other responsibilities or pursuits once he has heard of this troubling situation.

Each of us should follow Nehemiah's example. We should look carefully so that we can identify the need God is revealing. If we are going to be intentional about positioning ourselves to be used by God to meet the needs of others, we have to be attentive so that we can recognize the opportunities God brings our way.



Story

Look for the Reason (Neh. 4-7)

The second step in seizing opportunities to serve God is to look for the reason for the need. Having heard of the deplorable state of his fellow Jews and Jerusalem, Nehemiah doesn't immediately begin formulating a plan. Instead, he takes time to identify the reason for this situation.

Nehemiah responds to his companions' troubling news by mourning. He spends time before God praying and fasting. In prayer, Nehemiah spends time focusing on the character of God and His commitment to His people. He continues in prayer by calling on God to listen and hear his prayer for the Israelites. He then goes to God in corporate and personal repentance over the people's disobedience to God's commands.

Nehemiah provides us with a wonderful example of how we should respond to revealed needs. First, he legitimately grieves over the situation. We should do the same.

When we hear of the persecution of believers around the world, a sister church in our area that is going through a difficult time, or an individual that is struggling, we ought to take time to grieve for them as Nehemiah grieved. In addition, Nehemiah refrains from jumping ahead of God by immediately looking for a solution and coming up with his own plan. Instead, he takes time to seek God. We ought to do the same. Whenever a need is revealed to us we should take it immediately to God. We ought to allow Him to reveal to us the true reason for the need rather than jumping ahead and attempting to work out a solution in our own understanding and strength.

Look for the Possibility (Neh. 1:8-11)

The final step in seizing opportunities to serve God that we learn from Nehemiah is to look for the possibility for God to use us to meet the need. Initially, Nehemiah hears of the need of the Jews and Jerusalem. He then takes the situation before God to

clearly understand the reason for the situation. Now comes the hard part, Nehemiah has to wait and allow God to reveal how He intends to use him to meet the need.

Still in prayer, Nehemiah focuses on God's commitment to restore those who return to Him. He calls upon God to hear those who revere Him. He calls upon God to have compassion and grant him immediate success. Here Nehemiah understands the possibility for God to use him to meet this need. As the cupbearer to King Artaxerxes, he has the potential to be used by God in a mighty way to meet the needs of the people and the city. His position and influence in serving the king provide Nehemiah with an incredible opportunity to be used by God in a powerful way to fulfill His commitment to restore those who have returned to Him.

Like Nehemiah, once we have identified a need, we should take it to God to understand it, and then allow God to reveal how He can use us to meet the need.

Story is Minister of Education, First Church, Louisville.

EXPLORE THE BIBLE

Meet Divine Expectations

Isaiah 5:1-14

By Beth S. Bowman

Today's Christians struggle too much with trying to know God's will. We search, pray and fast. We ask trusted counselors, faithful friends and our families. We question, wrestle, and fret. In the middle of trying to figure out the "big picture" of our life, we are like the Israelites who kept forgetting all of the basic, daily standards God has given us. Obeying these standards will lead us to His "big picture" plan and bless us.

1. Acknowledge the Lord's expectations (Isaiah 5:1-2)

The passage is written as a parable in song. The Lord had planted His people in a fertile land, expecting them to produce the good fruit of justice and right living but the people had disappointed him. In verse

1, we read that the vineyard had been planted on a very fertile hill. God deliberately set the Israelites in places and situations where they could grow and bless others. Their discontent led them to reject God's expectations and His will for them. God does the same for us by giving us amazing blessings in our homes, family, friends and churches. In our discontent, we overlook these blessings and focus on the green grass on the other side of the fence. In our dissatisfaction, we fail to live up to His expectations. We are not much different than the Israelites in that we think our desires supersede God's will for us.

2. Anticipate the Lord's Response (Isaiah 5:3-6)

In vs. 4 God asks, "What more could I have done for My



Bowman

vineyard than I did?" The Lord asked the people to judge whether His promise to bring ruin upon their nation was just and reasonable. He had expected obedience and received the exact opposite. It is imperative to note that many, many

times God had given His people instructions in living. How many times do we hear the voice of the Lord calling us to respond and we do the opposite? In vs. 5 God continues His warnings with detailed descriptions about what He intends to do. First of all, God planned to remove the wall and the hedges of protection from the vineyard. Without the hedge and the wall, weeds and other briars from neighboring farms could begin their infiltration of the vineyard. When we choose right living, we are given hedges of protection between sin and us. Our deliberate disobedience will cause struggles in our life that as His

children, God never meant for us to have. A famous quote states, "Sin adds to your trouble, subtracts from your energy and multiplies your difficulties." (author unknown). As believers, we are assured of eternal salvation but God reminds us that the consequences of sin belong to us.

3. Adopt the Lord's Standards (Isaiah 5:7-14)

The Israelites did not care about the outcomes of their choices. They wanted their own way and were insistent on their selfish desires. In many ways, the church is like that today in the way that we treat His commands for us and how we approach God. We have become too familiar with the Holy and we treat the sacred as common. In these verses, God shows us His standards by contrasting what Israel had neglected to do. The ungrateful people had devastated the vineyard and stolen from the poor. They had been unjust to others and bought up all of the land for themselves. They had taken over the country leaving

people homeless and landless. They did the exact opposite of God's expectations by living in a manner that produced fruit inconsistent with God's love for the poor, the oppressed and the marginalized. Micah 6:8 (NIV) says it best, "What does the Lord require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God."

Recently at the grocery store, I bought sour grapes. Yuck! Just the thought of them even today, makes a bad taste in my mouth. I will never forget their texture, their taste and their flavor. As we encounter our world, we each have that opportunity to leave a lasting impression. We know God's will for us; we are called to live by His standards, His values and His commands. If we live in a spirit-controlled way, we can treat others in the way that would lead them to desire to know God and as David wrote in Psalms 34:8, (KJV) "Taste and see that the Lord is good!"

Bowman is Minister of Connection, First Church, Brandon.

Guidelines for submitting news and photographs

The Baptist Record is pleased to publish news and photographs of special events that take place in cooperating churches of the Mississippi Baptist Convention.

News submitted for publication in The Baptist Record must be either (a) typewritten, (b) neatly printed on 8 1/2 by 11-inch paper, or (c) neatly printed on standardized forms provided by the newspaper. All articles must be received in writing; no articles will be accepted over the telephone.

News may be submitted electronically to the address below, and must be contained in the message segment of an e-mail form. Due to increasing virus threats, no text attachments will be accepted. Photograph attachments are permissible.



Please make articles concise. Include the who, what, when, where details of the story, along with a contact person's address and telephone number.

Photographs may be color or black and white. Instant photos and digital printouts are not reproducible. Digital photos may be used if

submitted as a JPEG file via either (a) e-mail, (b) three-and-a-half inch floppy disk, or (c) CD. Photos must be clear, sharp, and well-lighted. Cell phone photographs and other low resolution items are generally not publishable. Photographs can not be returned. Please do not attach photos with tape or staples.

All news items are subject to editing, and all photographs are subject to cropping. Photographs must depict people. No landscape, building, or object-only photographs will be printed. News items and/or photographs can be published one time only. News items and/or photographs depicting benefits and activities for secular or outside organizations will not be published. Deadline for submitting news is one week prior to requested publication date.

Articles that are not date-sensitive will be published on a space-available basis.

Submit news and photographs to The Baptist Record, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. FAX: (601) 292-3330. E-mail: baptistrecord@mbcb.org.

Professor: Christianity, Darwinism 'radically different'

FORT WORTH, Texas (BP) — On the 200th birthday of Charles Darwin, William Dembski, research professor of philosophy at Southwestern Seminary in Ft. Worth, challenged Darwin's famed theory of evolution during a seminary chapel service.

Christianity and Darwinian evolution put forward "radically different worldviews," Dembski said Feb. 22 at the Fort Worth, Texas, seminary. "I think the real challenge for the church now is not the atheistic Darwinists... but it is now the church itself and Christian higher education embracing this semi-materialistic worldview."

According to Dembski, every worldview involves a creation story, a problem, a solution for that problem, and an expected culmination. For Christians, this involves a world created by a wise God and marred by the sinfulness of man. As the solution to sin, the Son of God entered the world as Jesus Christ and died for the redemption of man. In the end, Christ will return and the creation will be renewed.

"Evolution comes to us and challenges us right at the point of creation," Dembski said, calling evolution a "secular creation story." Darwin wasn't the first to think of a creation that evolved, Dembski added. In fact, some ancient Babylonian myths recount how the waters commingled and evolved "into

higher gods." Similarly, Darwinian evolution explains that the process began "with material forces moving about and evolving into something higher."



Dembski

This materialistic worldview, Dembski said, has been infused even into Christian culture. However, he added, "If you get your starting points wrong, you can count on everything downstream going amiss as well." As a result, some theistic evolutionists, who believe in God while also supporting Darwin's theory of evolution, hold to an unbiblical theology.

For example, some have denied the fall of mankind and argue that man's problem is a selfishness caused by the process of natural selection, Dembski said.

The widespread acceptance of Darwin's theory can be seen in the support it has gained in academic circles, even at schools and universities with Christian backgrounds. Some schools even refuse to teach any alternatives to Darwinism, he said.

This same concern was aired in the 2008 documentary *Expelled: No Intelligence Allowed*. In the film, host Ben Stein tracked down scholars, including Dembski, who have been persecuted — or "expelled" — by the academic community for their support of Intelligent Design, a research discipline that flies in the face of Darwinism.

Despite this widespread support of Darwin's theory of evolution by natural selection, Dembski noted that it is a hypothesis. A theory, he said, should both explain what a scientist observes while also gaining support from independent evidence.

"In fact, there is very little evidence for the power of natural selection," Dembski said, adding that the existing evidence concerns small-scale evolutionary changes like the development of antibiotic-resistant bacteria.

As for Intelligent Design, "It is not creationism," Dembski said. "It's engineering." Intelligent Design entails research that seeks to discover evidence of design, or engineering, within nature. For example, no human engineer has designed technology that can hold as much information in such a compact way as the DNA found in cells, he said.

After Dembski's message, Paige Patterson, Southwestern's president, noted that the College at Southwestern encourages students to

explore all worldviews so that they may examine them according to a biblical worldview. Students in the college learn about Intelligent Design, Patterson said, but also are required to read Darwin's book, *On the Origin of Species*.

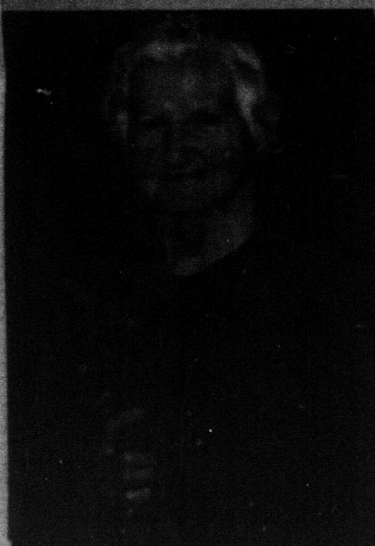
Editor's note: To hear Dembski's chapel message, access Southwestern Seminary's chapel archives at www.swbts.edu/chapel.



Conference of Mississippi Baptist Evangelists officers

Officers of the Conference of Mississippi Baptist Evangelists for this year are, from left, Becky and Steve Caver, Secretary-Treasurers; Beverly Cottingham and Ronnie Cottingham, Vice-President; and Tina Hudson and Wayne Hudson, President. (Photo by Tony Martin)

JUST FOR THE RECORD



1. Gore

1. The deacons and Brotherhood of First Church, Magnolia, hosted a Valentine's banquet Feb. 13 to honor the widows of the church. Bess Gore was crowned queen of the event.

2. Concord Church, Pelahatchie, will host Jerry Trammell in concert Mar. 1, 7 p.m. A love offering will be taken.

3. First Church, Ripley, recently licensed Payton Hill to preach the gospel. Shown are Hill and pastor Rex Yancey.

4. First Church, Laurel, is hosting the Providentials Quartet in concert Mar. 8, 6 p.m.

5. Liberty Church, Flowood, is sponsoring a Strengthen Your Marriage conference Mar. 7 & 8; Sat, 9:15 - 10:15 a.m. and 10:30 - 11:30 a.m. Led by Tate Cockrell, family pastor, Broadmoor Church, Madison. To register, call (601) 992-0345.

6. West End Church, West Point, will presenting their Easter drama and musical, *Unshackled: The Chains are Gone*, Apr. 10 7 p.m., and Apr. 12, 10 a.m.

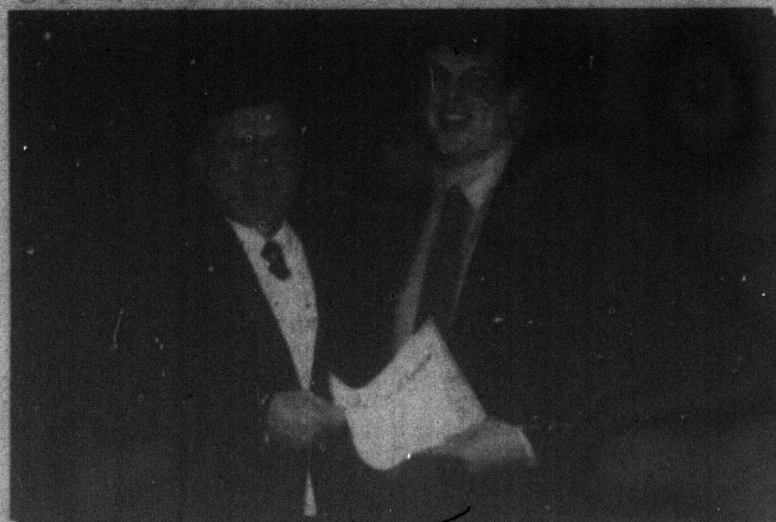
7. East Philadelphia Church, Philadelphia, is hosting a single adult coffee house Mar. 20, 6:30 p.m., featuring musical guest Becky Brown. The event is sponsored by the Neshoba County Baptist Singles and the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board. For information, call (601) 656-1820.

8. First Church, Nettleton, held its Valentine banquet Feb. 8. Shown are guest speaker J.J. Jasper and banquet king and queen, Lester and Gracie Weeks.

9. The RAs, GAs, and Mission Friends of Sylvarena Church, Wesson, recently sponsored Show Love to Our Furry Friends pet food drive. Shown are the participants.



8. First Church, Nettleton



3. Hill and Yancey



9. Sylvarena Church, Wesson